





### VOLUNTEER REPORT FORMAT

To be submitted to CRS at the end of volunteer assignment and shared with the Host

- 1.1 Assignment information
  - a) Volunteer Name
  - b) State of Origin
  - c) Host Organization
  - d) Assignment
  - e) Dates of Assignment
  - f) Number of days worked

Katie Pickett Louisiana National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK) GPS Data Collection and Technical Support April 1st to May 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 25

1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW

Objective 1:

- GPS data collection using ArcGIS and other available tools
- a) Progress with the objective
  - Collection of data was accomplished prior to assignment
  - Facilitated discussions of GPS data collection best practices in accordance to CRS iForm Builder specifications and NPCK needs
- b) Expected impacts/results
  - NPCK will utilize collected data to decrease the costs and increase the benefits that exist between farmers and consumers via supply chain management mapping analysis
- c) Recommendations<sup>1</sup>
  - NPCK technical staff member(s) should maintain iForm Builder training relationship with CRS EARO staff

## 1.2.2 Objective 2 in your SOW

Objective 2:

- Establish systems for data collection and collation
- a) Progress with the objective
  - Systematic data collection techniques were predefined
    - $\circ$  iForm Builder training of one NPCK employee by CRS EAROs ICT lead
      - In-situ experiential learning
      - further support provided by CRS EARO ICT lead
  - Data collection systems were predefined prior to volunteer period  $_{\odot}$  iForm Builder
  - Collation of iForm Builder collected data had one main element of data management predefined

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>*Note:* Make no more than 6 recommendations. The most useful recommendations for hosts are ones that they can implement themselves with minimal expense. For example, a cooperative might change its financial reporting procedures or hold more regular meetings of its board. Broad recommendations on tax or credit reform, changes in government policy, or investment in large-scale equipment, are usually not within the host organization's reach.







- Zoho Reports
- Collation of data was explained from an introductory to intermediate level
  - Tabular, or CSV, data implementation
    - Data scrubbing logic
    - Proper formatting
    - Importation into ArcGIS environment
- Elementary collation techniques were taught in an experiential manner
  - How-to guide logic

- Step-by-step instructions
- $\circ$  Interactive software approach
  - Excel
    - ArcGIS Map environment
      - Attribute table
- Intermediate collation techniques were introduced in order to give wider future understanding and knowledge of advanced statistical possibilities
  - o ArcGIS Map environment
    - Attribute table editing
- b) Expected impacts/results
  - Continuation of CRS EARO iForm Builder data collection parameters
  - Continual support of NPCK data collection by CRS EARO and NPCK data collection employee
  - Import understanding of proprietary NPCK *in-situ* collected data into ArcGIS environment to create visual maps
  - Data clean-up logic understanding
- c) Recommendations
  - Additional training on complex attribute statistics in ArcMap for intermediate mapping techniques
  - Additional training using Maribeth Price's Mastering ArcGIS manual
  - Continued support by CRS EARO ICT lead on iForm Builder data collection
  - Additional training and support by ESRI East Africa, based in Nairobi, for ArcGIS mapping and data management techniques
    - Free seminars
    - $\circ$  Maintaining close contact with NPCKs ESRI East Africa account manager
    - Maintaining close contact with ESRI East Africa's non-profit lead

## 1.2.3 Objective 3 in your SOW

Objective 3:

- Data cleaning and analysis
- a) Progress with the objective
  - Intermediate data cleaning level achieved
    - Data scrubbing logic
    - Step-by-step guide
    - Experiential learning techniques
      - Elementary Excel techniques







- Elementary to intermediate ArcMap environment importation techniques
- Elementary ArcMap environment techniques
- Elementary data analysis level achieved
  - Map visualization by symbolization
    - Categorization
    - Ranking
    - Value coding
- b) Expected impacts/results
  - Data cleaning logic understanding
    - Ability to change place names
    - Ability to identify incorrect placement of spaces
    - $\circ$  Ability name fields correctly for ArcGIS importation
    - $\circ$  Ability to identify data structure issues
  - Data collation logic understanding
    - Ability to categorize data types based on geometry
      - Point
      - Polylines
      - Polygons
    - Ability to categorize data into groups
      - Map visualization symbolization
    - Ability to categorize data based on field values
      - Numerical
        - Integer types
          - o Excel
          - ArcMap attribute table
        - Intermediate selection types for ArcMap attribute table using the array of selection types
          - Geometry locational selection
        - Elementary SQL query introduction for ArcMap attribute table using the array of selection types
          - o SQL query resources
          - SQL query formatting
      - Alphabetical
        - String types
          - o Excel
          - ArcMap attribute table
        - Intermediate selection types for ArcMap attribute table using the array of selection types
          - Geometry locational selection
        - Elementary SQL query introduction for ArcMap attribute table using the array of selection types
          - SQL query resources
          - SQL query formatting
- c) Recommendations
  - Additional training on intermediate and advanced attribute statistics in ArcMap for intermediate mapping techniques using SQL queries







- o Attribute table
- o Complex geometrical locational selections
- Additional training using Maribeth Price's Mastering ArcGIS manual
  - o Joins and relates
    - Varying types
    - Logic of
    - Functional methodology
    - Step-by-step experiential learning
  - Including the concepts of table relations
    - To further elucidate the tabular data relational structure introduced in the relational database model (RDBM) competencies
- Continued support by CRS HQ for appropriate instructional manuals, literature, and up-to-date resources
  - In coordination of resources being sent to NPCK employees
  - o In coordination of resources through ESRI non-profit agreement and licensing
- Additional training and support by ESRI East Africa, based in Nairobi, for ArcGIS for data cleaning and collation
  - o Free seminars
  - Maintaining close contact with NPCKs ESRI East Africa account manager
  - Maintaining close contact with ESRI East Africa's non-profit lead

### 1.2.4 Objective 4 in your SOW

Objective 4:

- Mapping and layering of data
- a) Progress with the objective
  - Elementary mapping and layering of data concepts and experiential learning complete o Importing appropriate data types
    - $\circ$  Identifying varying data types
    - Selecting attributes based on parameters
    - Symbolization of data based on categorical analysis
    - $\circ$  Visualization of data through symbology types
    - Conceptual understanding of layers, which represent data, which create the visual basis of a geographical informational system (GIS)
- b) Expected impacts/results
  - Basic mapping and layering of proprietary data to illuminate the relationships found through basic to intermediate data analysis
  - Ability to create visual maps for programming
  - Ability to create aesthetically pleasing maps rooted in map design principles

     Color theory
    - Symbolization
- c) Recommendations
  - Coordinate with CRS EARO and ESRI East Africa to facilitate additional training for intermediate mapping
    - $\ensuremath{\circ}$  Spatial analysis
    - Intermediate ArcGIS Toolbox utilization







- Georeferencing satellite imagery as base layer
- Editor tools
- Continued support by CRS HQ for appropriate instructional manuals, literature, and upto-date resources
  - $\circ$  In coordination of resources being sent to NPCK employees
  - $\circ$  In coordination of resources through ESRI non-profit agreement and licensing
- Additional training and support by ESRI East Africa, based in Nairobi, for ArcGIS for data cleaning and collation
  - Free seminars
  - $\circ$  Maintaining close contact with NPCKs ESRI East Africa account manager
  - Maintaining close contact with ESRI East Africa's non-profit lead

## 1.2.5 Objective 5 in your SOW

Objective 5:

- Creating workflows
- GPS database management
- a) Progress with the objective
  - Intermediate workflow conceptualization and understanding was achieved through experiential teaching of the systematic approach of data integration from tabular to mapped data informatics
  - Concepts of database management through the structured approach of data types, storage, and usage
- b) Expected impacts/results
  - Ability to create basic GIS workflows
    - $\circ$  From tabular data to data visualization techniques
  - Ability to identify data types and appropriate storage and categorization
    - $\circ$  Geodatabase creation in ArcCatalog in the ArcMap environment
      - $\circ$  Differentiation between feature class and datasets
  - Ability to share databases and data tables between multiple users
- c) Recommendations
  - Additional training on intermediate and advanced attribute statistics in ArcMap for intermediate workflow creation and geodatabase management
    - Additional training using Maribeth Price's Mastering ArcGIS manual
      - Conceptual understanding and experiential learning for
        - Workflow creation best practices
        - Geodatabase management
          - Fully integrated creation
          - Fully updatable and tracked changes
            - Including advanced understanding of international metadata standards
  - Continued support by CRS HQ for appropriate instructional manuals, literature, and upto-date resources
    - $\circ$  In coordination of resources being sent to NPCK employees
    - $\circ$  In coordination of resources through ESRI non-profit agreement and licensing







- Additional training and support by ESRI East Africa, based in Nairobi, for ArcGIS for data cleaning and collation
  - $\circ$  Free seminars
  - $\circ$  Maintaining close contact with NPCKs ESRI East Africa account manager
  - $\circ$  Maintaining close contact with ESRI East Africa's non-profit lead

## 1.3 Recommended future volunteer assignment

### 1.4 Action Plan

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when	
<ol> <li>Additional training on ArcMap for intermediate mapping techniques</li> </ol>	See below	<ul> <li>a) Katie Pickett and NPCK technology lead</li> <li>b) CRS HQ and CRS EARO</li> </ul>	a) End of June 2016 b) End of June 2016	
	SEE DEIOW	c) CRS EARO ICT lead d) NPCK technology lead, CRS EARO, and ESRI EA	<ul><li>c) Ongoing</li><li>d) End of July 2016</li></ul>	
2. Introduction and training for intermediate to advanced ArcCatalog geodatabase design, maintenance, and management	See below	<ul> <li>a) Katie Pickett and NPCK technology lead</li> <li>b) CRS HQ and CRS</li> </ul>	a) End of July 2016 b) End of July 2016	
		EARO c) NPCK technology lead, CRS EARO, and ESRI EA	c) End of August 2016	
3. Additional training on intermediate and advanced attribute statistics in ArcMap for intermediate mapping techniques using SQL queries		<ul> <li>a) Katie Pickett and NPCK technology lead</li> </ul>	a) End of August 2016	
	See below	<ul> <li>b) Katie Pickett and NPCK technology</li> </ul>	b) End of August 2016	
		lead c) CRS HQ and CRS EARO	<ul><li>c) End of August 2016</li><li>d) End of September</li></ul>	
		d) NPCK technology lead, CRS EARO, and ESRI EA	2016	
4. Coordinate with CRS EARO and ESRI East Africa to facilitate additional training for intermediate mapping		a) Katie Pickett and NPCK technology lead	a) End of September 2016	
	See below	b) Katie Pickett and NPCK technology lead	b) End of September 2016	







		c) NPCK technology lead, CRS EARO, and ESRI EA
5. Additional training on intermediate and advanced attribute statistics in ArcMap for intermediate workflow creation and geodatabase management	See below	<ul> <li>a) Katie Pickett and NPCK technology lead</li> <li>b) Katie Pickett and NPCK technology lead</li> <li>c) NPCK technology lead, CRS EARO, and ESRI EA</li> <li>a) End of October 2016</li> <li>b) End of October 2016</li> <li>c) End of October 2016</li> </ul>
6. Skills and technique assessment to determine proficiency level for further resource allocation and in- person training	See below	a) Katie Pickett and NPCK technology lead a) End of November or beginning of December 2016

1.Specific action:

- a. Weekly or bi-monthly Skype meetings with me, Katie Pickett
- b. Additional training using Maribeth Price's Mastering ArcGIS manual
  - i. Chapter readings
  - ii. Chapter exercises
  - iii. Chapter assignments
    - 1. Sent to me on weekly or bi-monthly basis for revision
- c. Continued support by CRS EARO ICT lead on iForm Builder data collection
- d. Additional training and support by ESRI East Africa, based in Nairobi, for ArcGIS mapping and data management techniques
  - i. Free seminars
  - ii. Free or discounted ESRI press books
    - 1. Suggested books:
      - a. Brewer, Cynthia A. (2015). Designing better maps: A guide for GIS users. ESRI Press. http://esripress.esri.com/display/inde x.cfm?fuseaction=display&websiteID=293&moduleID=0.
      - b. Goor, Wilpen L. and Kristen S. Kurland (2016). GIS tutorial 1: Basic workbook, 10.3.x edition. ESRI Press. http://esripress. esri.com/bookResources/index.cfm?event=catalog.book&id=21.
      - Law, Michael (2015). Getting to know ArcGIS. ESRI Press. http://esripress.esri.com/display/index.cfm?fuseaction=display &websiteID=286&moduleID=0.
  - iii. Maintaining close contact with NPCKs ESRI East Africa account manager for future opportunities
  - iv. Maintaining close contact with ESRI East Africa's non-profit lead







- 2. Specific action:
  - a. Weekly or bi-monthly Skype meetings with me, Katie Pickett
  - b. Additional training using Maribeth Price's Mastering ArcGIS manual
    - i. Applicable chapter readings
    - ii. Applicable chapter exercises
    - iii. Applicable chapter assignments
      - 1. Sent to me on weekly or bi-monthly basis for revision
  - c. Additional training and support by ESRI East Africa, based in Nairobi, for ArcGIS mapping and data management techniques
    - i. Free seminars
    - ii. Free or discounted ESRI press books
      - 1. Suggested books:
        - Arctur, David and Michael Zeiler (2004). Designing geodatabases: case studies in GIS data modeling. ESRI Press: Chapters 1 and 9. https://www.amazon.com/Desig ning-Geodatabases-Case-Studies-Modeling/dp/158948021X.
        - MacDonald, Andrew (2001). Building a geodatabase ArcGIS Edition. ESRI Press. https://www.amazon.com/ Building-Geodatabase-ArcGIS-Andrew-MacDonald/dp/1879102994.
        - c. Zeiler, Michael (2010). Modeling our world, second edition: The ESRI guide to geodatabase concepts. ESRI Press: Chapter 1. http://esripress.esri.com/storage/esrip ress/images/178/modelingourworld2-chapter1.pdf.
    - iii. Maintaining close contact with NPCKs ESRI East Africa account manager for future opportunities
- 3. Specific action:
  - a. Weekly or bi-monthly Skype meetings with me, Katie Pickett
  - b. Additional training using Maribeth Price's Mastering ArcGIS manual
    - i. Applicable chapter readings
    - ii. Applicable chapter exercises
    - iii. Applicable chapter assignments
      - 1. Sent to me on weekly or bi-monthly basis for revision
  - c. Continued support by CRS HQ for appropriate instructional manuals, literature, and upto-date resources
    - i. In coordination of resources being sent to NPCK employees
    - ii. In coordination of resources through ESRI non-profit agreement and licensing
  - d. Additional training and support by ESRI East Africa, based in Nairobi, for ArcGIS for data cleaning and collation
    - i. Free seminars
    - ii. Maintaining close contact with NPCKs ESRI East Africa account manager
    - iii. Maintaining close contact with ESRI East Africa's non-profit lead
- 4. Specific action:
  - a. Weekly or bi-monthly Skype meetings with me, Katie Pickett
  - b. Additional training using Maribeth Price's Mastering ArcGIS manual
    - i. Applicable chapter readings
    - ii. Applicable chapter exercises







- iii. Applicable chapter assignments
  - 1. Sent to me on weekly or bi-monthly basis for revision
- c. Additional training and support by ESRI East Africa, based in Nairobi, for ArcGIS mapping and data management techniques
  - iv. Free seminars
  - v. Free or discounted ESRI press books
    - 1. Suggested books:
      - a. Brewer, Cynthia A. (2015). Designing better maps: A guide for GIS users. ESRI Press. http://esripress.esri.com/display/inde x.cfm?fuseaction=display&websiteID=293&moduleID=0.
      - b. Goor, Wilpen L. and Kristen S. Kurland (2016). GIS tutorial 1: Basic workbook, 10.3.x edition. ESRI Press. http://esripress. esri.com/bookResources/index.cfm?event=catalog.book&id=21.
      - Law, Michael (2015). Getting to know ArcGIS. ESRI Press. http://esripress.esri.com/display/index.cfm?fuseaction=display &websiteID=286&moduleID=0.
  - vi. Maintaining close contact with NPCKs ESRI East Africa account manager for future opportunities
- 5. Specific action:
  - a. Weekly or bi-monthly Skype meetings with me, Katie Pickett
  - b. Additional training using Maribeth Price's Mastering ArcGIS manual
    - i. Applicable chapter readings
    - ii. Applicable chapter exercises
    - iii. Applicable chapter assignments
      - 1. Sent to me on weekly or bi-monthly basis for revision
  - c. Additional training and support by ESRI East Africa, based in Nairobi, for ArcGIS mapping and data management techniques
    - i. Free seminars
    - ii. Free or discounted ESRI press books
      - 1. Suggested books:
        - a. Allen, David W. (2016). GIS tutorial 2: Spatial analysis workbook. ESRI Press. http://esripress.esri.com/display/ind ex.cfm?fuseaction=display&websiteID=296&moduleID=0
        - Brewer, Cynthia A. (2015). Designing better maps: A guide for GIS users. ESRI Press. http://esripress.esri.com/display/inde x.cfm?fuseaction=display&websiteID=293&moduleID=0
        - Law, Michael (2015). Getting to know ArcGIS. ESRI Press. http://esripress.esri.com/display/index.cfm?f useaction=display&websiteID=286&moduleID=0.
    - iii. Maintaining close contact with NPCKs ESRI East Africa account manager for future opportunities
- 6. Specific action:
  - a. Multi-day assessment of NPCK staff, particularly the technology lead
    - i. Skill assessment of:
      - 1. Basic and intermediate mapping techniques







- 2. Basic, intermediate, and advanced ArcCatalog geodatabase design, maintenance, and management
- 3. Basic, intermediate, and advanced attribute statistics in ArcMap for intermediate mapping techniques using SQL queries
- 4. Basic, intermediate, and advanced attribute statistics in ArcMap for intermediate workflow creation and geodatabase management
- ii. To determine additional
  - 1. Funding
  - 2. Resource allocation
  - 3. In-person facilitation training
    - a. Amount of time needed
      - b. Technical, experiential learning
    - c. Gaps in understanding
    - d. Gaps in pedagogy

## 1.5 Number of people Assisted

- a) Through formal training (Classroom setup)
- 7 Through direct hands on practical assistance (Dou
- b) Through direct hands on practical assistance (Do not double count) Same as above
- c) Out of these above, number of host staffs5
- d) Training/assistance by field

## ?

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners	0	0	0
Employees	7	6	1
Clients/ Suppliers	0	0	0
Family Members	0	0	0
Total	7	6	1

## 1.6 Gender

a) What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How?

It was refreshing to see the technical lead is a young Kenyan female. Gender roles did not play a part of my assignment as a whole.

b) How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community?

The technology field around the world should encourage more female employment by training, scholarships, and identifying preferential positions within the organization, at HQ and in the field.

1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$

a. Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment







- i. Equal to or more than the number of hours spent training
- b. Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment
  - i. Equal to or more than the total amount spent on the volunteer
- 1.7 Value of hosts' contribution in \$ (Please consult the host as well)
- a) Meals
- a. One meal per day at \$2.00
  - i. At least \$20.00
- b) Transportation
  - a. None
- c) Lodging
  - a. None
- d) Translation
  - a. Not necessary
- e) Other (Specify)
- 1.8 Host Profile Data:

Did you obtain any data that supplements or corrects the data in the existing host information as detailed in the SOW? Please list it.

I do not understand this question.

1.9 Recommendations for CRS:

Provide GIS training materials to the host organization. Help facilitate a meeting between NPCK and GIS implementers in the Nairobi area.

1.10 Press Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **VOLUNTEER CONTACT:**

Katie Pickett GIS Intern, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Office of the Director for the Middle East and North Africa Bureau in Amman, Jordan +926796029317 katieellenpickett@gmail.com

### Lake Charles Area Volunteer Travels to Nairobi, Kenya to Share Skills with Local Farmers

## Farmer to Farmer program promotes economic growth and agricultural development in East Africa

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONTACT:

Physical address: American Press







4900 Hwy. 90 East Lake Charles, Louisiana 70615 (337) 433-3000

Mailing address: American Press P.O. Box 2893 Lake Charles, Louisiana 70602

Main Newsroom: news@americanpress.com (337) 494-4080 1-800-531-4080 Fax: (337) 494-4070

Executive Editor: Crystal Stevenson cstevenson@americanpress.com (337) 494-4083

Lake Charles Area Volunteer Travels to Nairobi, Kenya to Share Skills with Local Farmers

Farmer to Farmer program promotes economic growth and agricultural development in East Africa

Katie Pickett, a geographic information systems (GIS) intern for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Office of the Director for the Middle East and North Africa Bureau in Amman, Jordan from Lake Charles, Louisiana travelled to Nairobi, Kenya for five weeks to share her technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Ms. Pickett's assignment is part of Catholic Relief Services' Farmer-to-Farmer (FTF) program that promotes economic growth, food security, and agricultural development in East Africa.

"Geographic information systems (GIS) technology not only allows local, state, national, and international non-profit organizations, governments, and corporations the ability to visualize data and programming initiatives in map form, but most importantly GIS technology systems facilitate decisionmaking for funding, planning, and monitoring and evaluation managers using spatial analysis logic. GIS technology is often times associated with the oil and gas industry in Louisiana, but Catholic Relief Services' Farmer-to-Farmer programming in eastern Africa is a shining example of information and communications technology for development (ICT4D) implementation in the international non-profit sector. Agricultural commodity chain mapping identifies source locations, potential environmental risks, transportation network efficiency issues, and creates a more sustainable economic development assessment policy for beneficiary organizations like the National Potato Council of Kenya. It was a great honor to represent Catholic Relief Services and the American people on behalf of USAID in Kenya and to see American foreign policy funding make such a positive and sustainable impact in eastern Africa. As Kenyans say in Swahili, *"Asante sana!"* said Ms. Pickett.







Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the five-year program matches the technical assistance of U.S. farmers, agribusinesses, cooperatives, and universities to help farmers in developing countries improve agricultural productivity, access new markets, and increase their incomes.

In Nairobi, Ms. Pickett worked with the National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK) in geographic information systems (GIS) training and giving technical assistance to the non-profit organization to enable them to implement GIS technology for potato value chain mapping. Up to seven beneficiaries were reached.

**Ms. Pickett**'s volunteer assignment is one of nearly 500 assignments that focus on agriculture, food security, and nutrition in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. This is the first time CRS has been involved in the 28-year-old Farmer-to-Farmer Program funded by the U.S. government.

CRS is partnering with five U.S. institutions to tap into the rich diversity of the U.S. agriculture community: the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Foods Resource Bank, National Association of Agricultural Educators, American Agri-Women, and the University of Illinois' College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

The U.S. volunteers will travel to East Africa for anywhere from one to six weeks, their expenses covered by USAID.

"One thing we are certain of is that this program will be beneficial not just to the farmers in East Africa, but also to the volunteers from America," said Bruce White, CRS' director for the program. "It's going to make the world a little bit smaller for everyone involved."

For more information, visit <u>farmertofarmer.crs.org</u>

### # # #

**Catholic Relief Services** is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in nearly 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. For more information, please visit crs.org or crsespanol.org.

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **VOLUNTEER CONTACT:**

Katie Pickett GIS Intern, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Office of the Director for the Middle East and North Africa Bureau in Amman, Jordan +926796029317 katieellenpickett@gmail.com

### New Orleans Area Volunteer Travels to Nairobi, Kenya to Share Skills with Local Farmers







# Farmer to Farmer program promotes economic growth and agricultural development in East Africa

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### CONTACT:

The Times-Picayune and NOLA.com 365 Canal Place Suite 3100 New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

The Times-Picayune 301 Main St. Suite 101 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801

Editor and V.P. of Content: Mark Lorando mlorando@nola.com (504) 826-3430

Managing Producer: Drew Broach dbroach@nola.com (504) 883-7059

New Orleans Area Volunteer Travels to Nairobi, Kenya to Share Skills with Local Farmers

# Farmer to Farmer program promotes economic growth and agricultural development in East Africa

Katie Pickett, a geographic information systems (GIS) intern for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Office of the Director for the Middle East and North Africa Bureau in Amman, Jordan from New Orleans, Louisiana travelled to Nairobi, Kenya for five weeks to share her technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Ms. Pickett's assignment is part of Catholic Relief Services' Farmer-to-Farmer (FTF) program that promotes economic growth, food security, and agricultural development in East Africa.

"Geographic information systems (GIS) technology not only allows local, state, national, and international non-profit organizations, governments, and corporations the ability to visualize data and programming initiatives in map form, but most importantly GIS technology systems facilitate decisionmaking for funding, planning, and monitoring and evaluation managers using spatial analysis logic. GIS technology is often times associated with the oil and gas industry in Louisiana, but Catholic Relief Services' Farmer-to-Farmer programming in eastern Africa is a shining example of information and communications technology for development (ICT4D) implementation in the international non-profit sector. Agricultural commodity chain mapping identifies source locations, potential environmental risks, transportation network efficiency issues, and creates a more sustainable economic development







assessment policy for beneficiary organizations like the National Potato Council of Kenya. It was a great honor to represent Catholic Relief Services and the American people on behalf of USAID in Kenya and to see American foreign policy funding make such a positive and sustainable impact in eastern Africa. As Kenyans say in Swahili, *"Asante sana!*" said Ms. Pickett.

Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the five-year program matches the technical assistance of U.S. farmers, agribusinesses, cooperatives, and universities to help farmers in developing countries improve agricultural productivity, access new markets, and increase their incomes.

In Nairobi, Ms. Pickett worked with the National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK) in geographic information systems (GIS) training and giving technical assistance to the non-profit organization to enable them to implement GIS technology for potato value chain mapping. Up to seven beneficiaries were reached.

**Ms. Pickett**'s volunteer assignment is one of nearly 500 assignments that focus on agriculture, food security, and nutrition in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. This is the first time CRS has been involved in the 28-year-old Farmer-to-Farmer Program funded by the U.S. government.

CRS is partnering with five U.S. institutions to tap into the rich diversity of the U.S. agriculture community: the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Foods Resource Bank, National Association of Agricultural Educators, American Agri-Women, and the University of Illinois' College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

The U.S. volunteers will travel to East Africa for anywhere from one to six weeks, their expenses covered by USAID.

"One thing we are certain of is that this program will be beneficial not just to the farmers in East Africa, but also to the volunteers from America," said Bruce White, CRS' director for the program. "It's going to make the world a little bit smaller for everyone involved."

For more information, visit <u>farmertofarmer.crs.org</u>.

# # #

**Catholic Relief Services** is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in nearly 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. For more information, please visit crs.org or crsespanol.org.